

Things present or things to come.

A Four day Study in Relationship with God.

There are so many things in life that seek to separate you from God. Things in your work life, things in your family life, things in the media. The demands of modern life are such that we feel divided. Our time is required to be split into so many different categories. The simpler your lifestyle is, the easier it can be. Western society, as it is often referred to try's its very best to set a rift between you and God on a daily basis. This study won't tell you how to manage your own schedule, instead, it shall focus on the truths of scripture that you can hold onto as you navigate and manage your own daily routines. I pray that you allow God to lead you presently into lifelong relationship with him. Daily, drawing near to him, as he draws near to you.

Day 1.

Romans 8:38-39

New International Version - UK

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. Nothing shall separate. We have read the apostle Paul's words on many occasions. I don't know about you but I have found over the years that the verse merges into one long list. A wonderful list it is too. So, like any list the best thing to do is look at them one at a time.

Paul goes straight in with the encouragement that death will not separate us from God and his great love for us. As Christians, the concept of eternal life is easy and hard to grasp.

Easy: Heaven is eternal, we shall live with him, free from the confines of our corruptible flesh, decay and death, aches and pains, fading sight and hearing loss all no longer a problem.

Hard: Imagining what it will be like? How will we spend our time? What will our heavenly bodies look like?

I try not to occupy too much of my time on this. I prefer to wait and see. Like opening a gift on your birthday or at Christmas. I don't like poking the paper or shaking the box. I enjoy the surprise of unwrapping and seeing what's inside.

Now, I am aware that we are all different in this respect. Some people do a lot of in depth study into what heaven will look like, and that's fine. I prefer to wait and see. You can make your own mind up.

The joyous thing we take from this simple yet profound statement is one of the foundation stones of Faith. Death, cannot, will not, separate us from the Love of God. On the contrary, death shall propel us into the very arms of the Father, who in his great Love for us, sent Jesus to live and die for us, cleansing us from our sins, rescuing us from death and hell, and sending us securely into his eternal promise with those who have gone before us.

Rossiter. W. Raymond said this, "Life is eternal, and love is immortal, and death is only a horizon; and a horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight."

If we could truly see heaven and return at our own behest, the world would be no need for concern over death, and all would know, after all, who could refuse a free peek at heaven?

Our sight as the quote says, is limited. We only get to see so far ahead, then we move on; in moving on, we find the truth and draw ever nearer to its source. So don't concern yourself with death. Once in Christ, you are secure and not even death can separate you from God and his great love for you.

Let's pray.

*Heavenly Father, I thank you for your great love for me.
I thank you that in my salvation, I have no fear of death.
Like the apostle Paul, I am convinced that death cannot,
Will not, separate me from your Love.*

*In Jesus Name,
Amen.*

Questions.

Are you worried about dying?

Have you accepted God's great love for you in Jesus Christ?

If you are concerned about death and are not secure in Jesus, you can say this short prayer and contact us at: renfrewcf@virginmedia.com

Lord Jesus, I acknowledge my need of you in my life. Forgive my sins and show me your ways in my life. Lead me along life's pathway as I get to know you more each day. Thank-you for your great love for me.

I love you Lord Jesus. Amen.

Day 2. Nothing in life.

Yesterday we looked at death not being able to separate us from God and his great Love for us. Today we take a look at life.

Our daily lives differ. We may have similar likes and frustrations, yet each of us find our own way through them. What is a breeze for one, may be the bane of another. The important thing to latch onto here is that life, in all its shapes and forms, cannot and will not separate you from God's great love for you, when you are rooted in Christ.

As I touched on in day one's introduction, our busy schedules often get in the way. Although the biggest thing at the moment getting in the way of life is the global Covid-19 pandemic. Whether we like it or not, it is trying to disrupt your relationship with God.

IT CANNOT!

NOTHING CAN!

Life often throws a, 'curve ball.' When this happens the best thing to do is pray and worship God.

When there is a natural disaster- an earthquake, fire or flood- we send out the emergency response teams, followed by aid, attending to the needs of those affected.

In the same manner, when a spiritual, 'curve ball,' winds its way towards us, we need to default to our spiritual response. Whether in joy or in trial, our response is prayer and worship. Our weapons of choice in trial and our best clothes for celebration.

Pre-pandemic, the things to watch out for are daily routines. The, 'I'll do it later moments,' of life that leave us bereft of God's encouragement, comfort and presence, found in spending time with him. These will be something recognisable to everyone in these areas of life. You need to find your own routine, giving God the best. He in turn redeems the rest. The day works out surprisingly well.

Thomas Jefferson said, "I find that I have more luck the harder I work." The same principle applies here. The more time we spend with God, the greater his leading in our life will be. Our responses to situations will be more Godly and our lives will be more fruitful.

Remember, life in all its wonderful diversity cannot separate you from the Love of God. An old friend once told me that he would accept Jesus into his life when he was older, once he had lived life and experienced all it had to offer. He still to this day has not. He is unable to see that life in Christ has more to offer than gain and freedom of lifestyle. Life in Christ allows you and I to experience life, in all its wonderful colours and textures, led by God along his beautiful and bountiful pathways, to streams of abundance and the greenest pastures.

Life cannot, and will not separate us from God's great love for us. Only a choice not to follow Jesus can do that.

Let's Pray.

*Heavenly Father, I thank-you for the wonderful life you have given me.
I thank-you for every joy and every trial, for all of life's experiences.
Thank-you that you hear me when I pray and worship you.
I'm glad that you lead me along life's pathway.
Help me to give you the best and trust you to redeem the rest.*

*In Jesus name,
Amen.*

Questions.

*What is occupying your mind today?
What is going on in your life that is trying to separate you from the love of God?*

Identify what they are and don't let them into your thoughts.

Day 3. Not Angels nor Powers and Principalities.

The angelic host worship God every minute of every day. Right now heaven is filled with their adoration. We come and go, our worship varies, its intensity waning and growing, its regularity fluctuating. When we get to heaven, I suspect things will be different.

Whilst here on earth we find that Angels make irregular appearances. They come and go. Many have seen them. My wife saw one on the bonnet of my car, waving her to slow down approaching a blind corner on a single track road. We are thankful, as another speeding car was approaching, we pulled into a passing place safely as it sped past.

Yet our Praise was centred on God, it was him after all who sent the angel. Unfortunately, many get swayed by the idea of the angelic, the beauty and mystery drawing them to focus on them instead of God who created them. It's like worshipping the stars in heaven, when you can worship the one who made them and placed them in the sky.

1 Peter 1:12. Says this: Even Angels long to look into the things of God. Can you imagine? The angels in heaven, the ones we have spoken of, the ones who worship God day and night/night and day. The ones who watch over us and step in at God's instruction here on earth from time to time.

These same heavenly creatures long to look into the things of God.

They long to know the wonder of Salvation.

They long to know the mystery of forgiveness.

They will never have the same response to God as we do.

It is humans alone that can know the wonder of Salvation and the freedom and Joy of forgiveness.

2 Corinthians 11:4

For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus **other than** the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different **gospel** from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

So if you hear about another way, a better way, an amended way from an Angel or a person, don't listen. God is the same, Yesterday, Today and Forevermore. This fact is the anchor that holds secure in every storm. The apostle Paul is warning the Church in Corinth. They heard of different Jesus' and different gospels and they, 'put up with it,' they accepted it. No wonder Paul wrote so strongly. No wonder he said, that no angel or principality or power could get in the way of God's great love for us. Because they have tried

and keep trying. Religions have been founded on men hearing a different gospel from angels.

Paul goes onto mention powers and principalities. The host of heaven aside, other spiritual forces will try and interfere with your relationship with God. Ultimately they will fail.

Because, NOTHING Can separate you from God's great love for you.

Let's Pray.

*Heavenly Father I stand in awe of you. Your great love for me
Goes beyond all I could ever ask on imagine.*

Even the Angels in heaven long to know the Love of your Salvation.

May I never lose the wonder of your Salvation, the wonder of Jesus.

Thank-you for the privilege of loving and being loved by you.

You are amazing God.

In Jesus name,

Amen.

Questions.

Have you ever seen an Angel?

Have you ever been tempted to believe another version of the truth of Jesus?

*Remember, the devil uses persuasive words and arguments to try and shape
and change the church in to his image. God will always remain true to his word,
(The Bible,) he cannot deny himself and will not change his mind on what is
written. God is Faithful to his word.*

Day 4: Things present or things to come.

How are you today?

How has your week been?

Recently, everyone's answer has been similar. The days we live in are getting harder, moving faster and the pace of life has increased too.

We are living in the last days before Christ returns. If you are reading this and think otherwise, Jesus said that we are clever enough to read the signs of the weather and can tell if rain or sun is coming, yet warned us that it is foolish to not read the signs of the days we live in. We all need to take a long look around us and see if we can honestly relate to the following scripture. It has been read many times over the centuries.

The question is, How long before everything we see has reached its peak? Surely each generation that passes is one closer to the last one.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

3 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: **2** For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, **3** unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, **4** traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **5** having a form of godliness but denying its power.

In many ways I don't want to know the answer to the question, yet in other ways, I long for Jesus to bring an end to the terrible things we see in the world today. Our Children and our Grandchildren and future generations will see worse than us. Until God say's enough and Suddenly, Christ will return and all shall see.

The good news is that whether in things present or in things to come. Nothing can separate you or I from God's great love.

Today we see many signs of the times that match up with the Biblical prophecies of the second advent of Jesus. We watch and we pray. We wait and we pray. We carry on, running the race with our eyes fixed on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith.

In everything we say and in everything we do, we look to Jesus, we look for Jesus, and we share Jesus with those who are lost and seeking light in this present darkness.

And through it all we remember that;

NOTHING CAN and

NOTHING WILL separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.

Let's pray.

Heavenly Father I thank-you that I am secure in you.

I see that no matter what is happening or what may come,

That I am secure in you.

I stand today, convinced that:

"...neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

AMEN!

Questions.

What concerns you today?

Do you worry about tomorrow?

In Matthew 6:34 *Jesus said: Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

Trust in God daily, don't lean on your own understanding of events, lean instead on God, who is beginning and end.